

Assigned Study Items for 2019

Government Operations Interim Committee | May 15, 2019

The Legislative Management Committee assigned the following study items to the Government Operations Interim Committee for the 2019 interim. The information under the “description” column is provided in consultation with the person or persons submitting the item and does not represent direction from the Legislative Management Committee.

Name	Description	Submitted by
Congressional Vacancies	The governor vetoed 2019 S.B. 123 which would have created a process for filling a vacancy in the United States House of Representatives. The committee may consider alternative solutions.	Sen. Thatcher/ Rep. Knotwell
Executive Boards and Commissions	2019 H.B. 387 repealed, combined, or otherwise reduced the scope of dozens of boards and commissions with legislative members. However, there are around 350 boards and commissions without legislators that could also be addressed, including reducing the number of membership requirements to allow a broader range of people who can participate.	Rep. Knotwell/ Rep. Thurston
Plurality	Study policies to reduce or eliminate the possibility of a candidate being elected with less than a majority vote.	Sen. Thatcher
Local Government Disclosure Requirements	Address accountability and transparency in a local government’s use of public funds for the purpose of lobbying.	Sen. Thatcher
Abusive Conduct Reporting	Consider the Utah Public Employees Healthy Workplace Act and amend existing provisions related to state employee reporting of abusive conduct as outlined in 2019 H.B. 388 .	Rep. Stratton
Vote by Mail	Review and clean up overall processes and policies regarding voting by mail. Evaluate the overall system of voting by mail.	Office of the Lieutenant Governor and UAC/ County Clerks
GRAMA Excessive Requesters	Find solutions to address overly voluminous or vexatious GRAMA requests.	League of Cities and Towns
Code Corrections	Address actionable corrections to the Utah Code identified by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and staff.	Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Standardize Petition Policies	The Utah Code contains at least nine different types of petitions. Standardize the overall petition policies and create consistency over similar aspects. For example, define what does not qualify as a signature for all petitions and create uniform standards for signature removal, signature verification, etc.	Office of the Lieutenant Governor and UAC/ County Clerks
Petition Administration	Counties are required to validate hundreds of thousands of signatures for initiative petitions. Each validation takes about 60 seconds. Create policies and processes that still require signatures to be collected in-person, but collected electronically through a state-sponsored application in order to save time and money and reduce administrative burdens. Find solutions to reduce crossclaims of misrepresentation and deception in the signature gathering process.	UAC/ County Clerks
Plain Language Ballots	Simplify and shorten language on ballots, but include full language as an insert, online, and at polling places in a manner similar to what other states have done.	UAC/ County Clerks

Name	Description	Submitted by
State Financial Transparency Website	Report on implementation of changes to the Financial Transparency Website required by H.B. 178 and study additional changes that may need to be made to the Financial Transparency Website.	Department of Administrative Services
Presidential Election Timeline	Study the presidential election timeline.	Sen. Thatcher and UAC/ County Clerks
State Telework Initiative	Receive report on the implementation of the State Telework Initiative and related appropriations described in 2019 S.B. 3 , Item 125 and 2019 S.B. 2 , Item 144.	Department of Administrative Services
Daylight Saving Time	Study whether Utah should adopt daylight saving time year-round or keep the status quo. The committee may want to consider submitting a non-binding opinion question to the voters on this subject.	Rep. Judkins
State Government Internal Environmental Measures	Address issues state government can lead on regarding environmental quality, including fleet replacement, efficiency improvements in government buildings, reduction of water used at the capitol hill complex, payback on efficiency investments, etc.	Governor's Office/ House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Standing Committee/Rep. Briscoe
State Board of Education Membership	The Utah Supreme Court is deliberating whether to uphold a state law that allows a State Board of Education member to be elected by partisan election. Depending upon the court's decision, statutory changes may be necessary to conform with or respond to the court's decision.	Rep. Knotwell/ Sen. Thatcher